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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/965,849	10/01/2001	Shigeyuki Okada	011260	4034
38834	7590	08/11/2004	EXAMINER	
WESTERMAN, HATTORI, DANIELS & ADRIAN, LLP 1250 CONNECTICUT AVENUE, NW SUITE 700 WASHINGTON, DC 20036			RAO, ANAND SHASHIKANT	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			2613	

DATE MAILED: 08/11/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/965,849

Applicant(s)

OKADA, SHIGEYUKI

Examiner

Andy S. Rao

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 6/28/04.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-14 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-14 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 4/28/04 & 6/28/04.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____.

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DETAILED ACTION

Specification

1. The lengthy specification has not been checked to the extent necessary to determine the presence of all possible minor errors. Applicant's cooperation is requested in correcting any errors of which applicant may become aware in the specification.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

2. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

3. Claims 1-5, and 7-14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Aharoni et al., (hereinafter referred to as "Aharoni").

Aharoni discloses a moving picture decoding apparatus (Aharoni: figure 1; column 8, lines 25-42) comprising: a header information capture section receiving video stream signals of plural channels (Aharoni: column 9, lines 15-48) compression-encoded in digital signals to extract header information associated with a decode processing amount in each of said plural channels (Aharoni: column 13, lines 10-54), a determination section estimating said decode processing amount in each of said plural channels according to said header information to determine a reproduction scheme (Aharoni: column 17, lines 39-67); and a decoding section receiving said video stream signals of said plural channels to perform one of normal reproduction and simple reproduction less than said normal reproduction (Aharoni: column 12, lines 40-60) in

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processing amount in each of said plural channels according to an output of said determination section (Aharoni: column 11, lines 45-65), as in claim 1.

Regarding claims 2-3, Aharoni discloses that the video stream signals are encoded by one of the MPEG and the JPEG method (Aharoni: column 6, lines 55-65; column 8, lines 50-67) and the header includes the number of dots in a picture (Aharoni: column 11, lines 1-25), and a frame rate (Aharoni: column 9, lines 25-56), as in the claims.

Regarding claim 4, Aharoni discloses a first change-over section changing over said video stream signals inputted, according to an output of said determination section (Aharoni: column 18, lines 10-25); and a normal decoding section receiving one of said video stream signals from said first change-over section to perform said normal reproduction (Aharoni: column 18, lines 25-45); and a simple decoding section receiving one of said video stream signals from said first change-over section to perform said simple reproduction (Aharoni: column 18, lines 47-65), as specified.

Regarding claim 5, Aharoni discloses a display section for receiving an output of said decoding section to display plural split screens corresponding to said plural channels in said one screen (Aharoni: column 17, lines 40-60), as in the claim.

Regarding claim 7, Aharoni discloses that the video stream signals are encoded by one of the MPEG and the JPEG method (Aharoni: column 6, lines 55-65; column 8, lines 50-67), said simple reproduction including processing extracting and decoding data of intra-frame coded pictures in a group of pictures contained in said video stream signals (Aharoni: column 10, lines 20-50), as specified.

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Regarding claims 8-10, Aharoni discloses that the determination section determines said reproduction scheme according to the priority determined corresponding to each of said plurality of channels (Aharoni: column 11, lines 45-65), as in the claims.

Aharoni discloses a moving picture decoding method (Aharoni: column 2, lines 54-67; column 3, lines 1-30) comprising: a step extracting a header information associated with a decode processing amount in each of said plural channels (Aharoni: column 13, lines 10-54) by receiving video stream signals of said plural channels compression-encoded in digital signals (Aharoni: column 9, lines 15-48); a step of estimating said decode processing amount in each of said plural channels according to said header information to determine a reproduction scheme (Aharoni: column 17, lines 39-67); and a step of performing, by receiving said video stream signals of said plural channels, decode processing one of normal reproduction and simple reproduction less than said normal reproduction (Aharoni: column 12, lines 40-60) in processing amount in each of said plural channels according to said reproduction scheme (Aharoni: column 11, lines 45-65), as in claim 11.

Regarding claim 12, Aharoni discloses that the step of decode processing includes and a step selecting reproduction methods for said video stream signals (Aharoni: column 18, lines 25-45); and a step of receiving one of said video streams to perform normal reproduction and receiving one of said video streams to perform simple reproduction (Aharoni: column 18, lines 47-65), as specified.

Regarding claim 13-14, Aharoni discloses that said step of estimating determines said reproduction scheme according to priorities determined corresponding to respective plural channels (Aharoni: column 11, lines 25-65), as in the claims.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

4. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

5. Claim 6 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Aharoni in view of Fimoff.

Aharoni discloses a moving picture decoding apparatus (Aharoni: figure 1; column 8, lines 25-42) comprising: a header information capture section receiving video stream signals of plural channels (Aharoni: column 9, lines 15-48) compression-encoded in digital signals to extract header information associated with a decode processing amount in each of said plural channels (Aharoni: column 13, lines 10-54), a determination section estimating said decode processing amount in each of said plural channels according to said header information to determine a reproduction scheme (Aharoni: column 17, lines 39-67); and a decoding section receiving said video stream signals of said plural channels to perform one of normal reproduction and simple reproduction less than said normal reproduction (Aharoni: column 12, lines 40-60) in processing amount in each of said plural channels according to an output of said determination section (Aharoni: column 11, lines 45-65), such that each video stream signals are encoded by one of the MPEG and the JPEG method (Aharoni: column 6, lines 55-65; column 8, lines 50-67), as in claim 6. However, Aharoni fails to disclose the use

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of 4x8 IDCT for reproduction as in the claim. Fimoff discloses that for MPEG encoded image reproduction, it is known to implement a (4 x 8) inverse transform (Fimoff: column 18, lines 1-40) in order to downconverting interlaced pictures (Fimoff: column 7, lines 1-25). Accordingly, given this teaching, it would have been obvious for one of ordinary skill in the art to incorporate the use of Fimoff's (4 x 8) IDCT into the Aharoni method, in order to have the Aharoni method efficiently downconvert interlaced pictures. The Aharoni method, now incorporating the use of Fimoff's (4 x8) IDCT, has all of the features of claim 6.

Conclusion

6. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Andy S. Rao whose telephone number is (703)-305-4813. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday 8 hours.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Chris S. Kelley can be reached on (703)-305-4856. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

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asr

August 5, 2004

Andy S. Rao
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 2613

ANDY RAO
PRIMARY EXAMINER

